

Message Text

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TAGS: OTRA (TUENI, GHASSAN), LE, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF LEBANESE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER

1. LEBANESE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUENI INTENDS VISIT US ON PRIVATE TRIP MARCH 20-24 (WASHINGTON) AND 24-27 (NEW YORK CITY). IN ADDITION TO INFLUENTIAL ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY AN NAHAR WHICH HAS WIDE READERSHIP THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN

GULF AREA, AS WELL AS LEBANON, TUENI PUBLISHES FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, WEEKLY NEWS REPORT, BOOKS AND OTHER PERIODICALS. HE HOPES TO SEE USG OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN MIDDLE EAST WHILE IN THE US, AS WELL AS POSSIBLY APPEARING ON TV.

2. ALTHOUGH TRIP IS PRIVATE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH TO ADVANTAGE OF USG TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. TUENI'S BROTHER-IN-LAW MARWAN HAMADI WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AS OFFICIAL VISITOR STARTING APRIL 1ST, AND IN ADDITION TO PLANNING HIS OWN PROGRAM HE INTENDS BEGIN WORK ON PROGRAM FOR TUENI. OUR PRESS ATTACHE, CHRIS TOSS, WILL ALSO BE IN WASHINGTON, ON HOME LEAVE, AT THAT TIME AND WILL BE PREPARED ASSIST HAMADI AND DEPT. IN ARRANGING FOR SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY TUENI.

3. IF DEPT. AGREES TO ASSIST IN PLANNING FOR TUENI TRIP, PERHAPS GOOD INITIAL CONTACT POINT FOR HAMADI AND ROSS WOULD BE NEA/ARN. GODLEY

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